

**Summary of the
Blackstone River Watershed Council's
Activities for 2002**

The Blackstone River Watershed Council (BRWC) is a volunteer organization advocating the protection and preservation of the Blackstone River Watershed and its tributaries. The Blackstone River Watershed Council was established by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, in 1997. The BRWC's board is made up of appointed representatives from each of the nine communities, and from local, state and federal agencies. The BRWC was designated a watershed council by the RI Rivers Council in 2002. Activities for 2002 included:

Scholarship program – Awarded 10 scholarships to graduating seniors residing in the Watershed who displayed a commitment to the watershed.

Rhode Island Rivers Day Ceremony – Organized a program to celebrate the River and honor the volunteers who are working hard to improve the Blackstone River Watershed. The John H. Chafee RI Rivers Day award was presented to Keith Hainley for his work on the River.

Organization of a Watershed-wide Earth Day clean up – coordinated volunteer efforts, equipment needs, and proper disposal for Earth Day clean ups throughout the Watershed.

Coordination of a storm drain decaling program – Volunteers secured “Don’t Dump Drains to River” decals on over 300 storm drains throughout the 9 watershed communities.

Collaboration on the Blackstone River Watershed Action Plan – Worked with Fred Presley to create a draft Watershed Action Plan, which should be finalized in the spring of 2003.

On-going Watershed Stewardship – On-going stewardship efforts to remove debris from the River and its banks.